

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OPR-02

IO-10 SCCT-01 SY-05 /085 W
----- 121812

R 041557Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 881

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 115

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT REACTS CALMLY TO PROSPECT OF CEASEFIRE ENDING.

REF: BELFAST 111

1. NORTHERN IRELAND PRESS RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMENTARIES
LATE APRIL 3 AND APRIL 4 CONCENTRATED ON SPECULATION PROVISIONAL
IRA INTENDS SOON END CEASEFIRE IN EFFECT SINCE FEB. 10.
REPORTS SEEMS LARGELY BASED ON SINGLE BOMBING APRIL 2 AND
RUMORS WITH LITTLE HARD INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THEM. PROVISIONAL
SINN FEIN (PSF) ORGANIZER SEAMUS LOUGHRAN AND PSF VICE PRESIDENT
MAIRE DRUMM HAVE EXPRESSED APPREHENSION WHETHER CEASEFIRE CAN LAST
AND PROVISIONAL IRA COUNCIL RUMORED TO BE MEETING IN DUBLIN TODAY
OR OVER WEEKEND TO DECIDE FURTHER ACTION. IN STATEMENT APRIL 3
LOUGHRAN SAID HE UNAWARE OF ANY DECISION YET BUT THAT ACTION
WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN QUICKLY BY GOVERNMENT TO PRESERVE PEACE.
SUCH ACTION, HE SAID, COULD BE WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM STREETS,
ENDING OF DETENTION OR PERHAPS EVEN SIMPLE EXPLANATION OF
SHOOTING BY ARMY OF TWO PSF MEMBERS LAST MONTH. HE REITERATED
URGENCY OF NEED FOR FACE TO FACE MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

2. SECSTATE REES RETURNED TO ULSTER APRIL 3 AND REVIEWED
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SITUATION IN LIGH BOMBING APRIL 2 (REFTEL). IN DINNER SPEECH

TO GRAIN DEALERS LATER REES CONCENTRATED ON THEME OF SOLVING PROBLEMS BY CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS. HE AFFIRMED HOPE THAT CEASEFIRE, WHICH HAD HELD WELL, WOULD CONTINUE, STRESSED THE DESIRE OF OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF ULSTER PEOPLE FOR PEACE AND EMPHASIZED HIS INTENTION TO "MEET ANY SITUATION ON ITS MERITS AND DEAL WITH IT ON THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE THAT I MUST DO WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND AS A WHOLE." HE NOTABLY DID NOT RPT NOT OFFER FURTHER OR NEW CONCESSIONS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT SOURCES DENIED THERE WOULD BE "NEGOTIATIONS."SPICER

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